GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1277
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
DISCUSSION ON SYRIA
Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held discussions with Arab League on Syria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the discussions; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) The Government of India maintains regular contact with the League of Arab States (Arab League) on a number of important regional and global issues including the developments in Syria. The issue of Syria was discussed during the last meeting between Hon'ble External Affairs Minister and Secretary General of the Arab League in Cairo on 3rd March 2012. During the meetings, Arab League, inter alia, briefed India on the developments in Syria.

(c) & (d) India conveyed to Arab League that all sides must abjure violence in Syria and engage in political dialogue and resolve the crisis taking into account the aspirations of the people of Syria. The process should be Syria-led without external interference. The Arab League has taken a number of initiatives in resolving the Syrian issue. Government of India is of the view that the Arab League, as an important regional organization, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties.